



LEARNING CENTER NEWS

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday–Friday
0730–1600

Education Services Officer

CWO2 Steven E. Merchant
(206) 217-6325

Education Services Specialist

Dr. Larry J. Schuetz
(206) 217-6328

City University On Base Classes

Schedule for remainder of Academic Year 06-07 as follows:

Winter Quarter 2007

ENG 211 (Intermediate Composition) and HUM 220 (Introduction to Humanities) for five credits each.

Spring Quarter 2007

MATH 155 (Intermediate Algebra) and SCI 304 (Meteorology) for five credits each.

Summer Quarter 2007

SSC 200 (Sociology) and one other course to be determined.

Tuition Assistance Tips:

- To access the most current Tuition Assistance Request form, go to the following CG Institute web page:
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/tuition/4147.pdf>.

The latest revision of the TA Request Form (CGI-4147) requires applicants to provide their ESO's with something from the school showing the cost per credit, along with details of the course. We will happily accept a copy of the schools web page (showing the details of your charges), an e-mail from a school administrator, a school catalogue, or your detailed receipt. In order to approve your request we must be able to verify the actual cost of the course which includes a breakdown of how you are charged.

Education pays off in paycheck

By Stephen Ohlemacher—The Associated Press

How much is a bachelor's degree worth?

About \$23,000 a year, the government says.

That is the average gap in earnings between adults with bachelor's degrees and those with high school diplomas, according to data released Oct. 26 from the U.S. Census Bureau.

College graduates made an average of \$51,554 in 2004, the most recent figures available, compared with \$28,645 for adults with a high school diploma. High school dropouts earned an average of

\$19,169, and those with advanced college degrees made and average of \$78,093.

"There appear to be strong incentives to get a college degree, given the gaps that we observe," said Lisa Barrow, senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

The income gap narrowed slightly from five years earlier, when college graduates made nearly twice as much as high school graduates. But the differences remained significant for men and women of

every racial and ethnic group.

Eighty-five percent of people 25 and older had at least a high school diploma or the equivalent in 2005, according to the Census Bureau's 2005 Current Population Survey. In 2000, 80 percent had a high school diploma or the equivalent, and a little more than half did in 1970.

Twenty-eight percent had at least a bachelor's degree, compared with about 24 percent in 2000 and 11 percent in 1970.



RECOGNITION CORNER



Congratulations to the following members who during the previous month have passed an End of Course Test (EOCT), Advancement Qualification Exam or received college level credit for a DANTES type exam. If you or someone you know has recently earned a degree or certification we would like to post the significant achievement within this area as well.

DC2 Tyler Bates received his Associate in Technical Fire Service from Bates College on 16 November.

EOCT's & AOE's:

GM2 Joel Burkhardt, EPME E-6
OS3 Shannon Rubio, EOCT OS2
FS3 Sean Bartlett, EOCT FS2
SN Cherese Cavasso, EPME E-4
SK3 Tara Canny, EOCT SK2
SN Brian Prentice, EPME E-4
OS2 Ronald Moss, EOCT IV2
MK3 Brandon Hoke, EOCT MK2

SN Marla Jackson, EPME E-4

GM2 Geoffrey Gall, EOCT GM2

OS3 Joshua Cheers-Stevens, EOCT OS2

GM2 James Banks, EOCT GM1

DANTES Type Exams:

EMCS James Smith passed his College Mathematics CLEP earning 6 ACE-Recommended college credits.

Schedule of College Advisors visiting the Learning Center

College Rep Advising Schedule for December and January.

Call ESS at 206-217-6328 for reserved scheduling. Walk ins allowed but may have to wait.

DECEMBER 1 Thomas Edison State College, George Berko 0800-1200.

DECEMBER 8 Excelsior University, Jeanie Dahlby 0900-1300.

January 5 University of Phoenix, Doug Barnes 1000-1400.

January 12 Coastline Community College, Doug Hughes 0800-1200.

January 18 City University, Bev Johnson 1300-1500.

January 26 Thomas Edison State College, George Berko 0800-1200

Scholarships listed by the Office of Work-Life (CG-111)

The Scholarship Resource Program is available to; Active Duty, Reserves, Retirees and their dependents, Civil Service employees, Exchange System employees, and MWR employees.

For detailed information about the many available scholarships go to:
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wk/wkw/work-life/programs/scholarship/program.htm>

Before You Take an EOCT or AQE ... By Andy Webb, Tracen Cape May

Throughout the Coast Guard, there's an unfortunately persistent belief that it's not really necessary to study before you take an end-of-course test (EOCT) or Advancement Qualification Exam (AQE). I can't tell you how many times people have told me after taking a test, "I just wanted to find out what's on it." With all due respect, that's just not the way to do it. Let's examine why.

There are two assumptions underlying that statement: (1) that you're going to fail the first test and (2) if you know what's on the first test you take, you'll do better the next time you take it.

At the moment, there are three versions of each EOCT. Taking the first test as a throw-away ("just to see what's on it") won't help you take the other two versions since few questions are used on more than one test. That is, a question used in the first version is unlikely to show up in either of the other two versions.

Even questions that are used in more than one test, however, aren't used in the same form. Either the question itself has been reworded, the multi-choice responses are reworded, the multi-choice responses are listed in a different order, or all of these.

Then there's the fact that you are required to wait three weeks between tests if you don't pass on the first try. For "just seeing what's on the test" to help you pass it the next time, you'd have to remember 76% or 80% of (in the case of the open-book tests) 94% or 96% of the answers correctly until the next time you took the same test – at least 9 weeks after first taking it.

Let's face facts: it's a much better use of your time to study (REALLY study) your course materials/PQG and prepare to pass the first time than to waste your first go at an EOCT/AQE and trust chance that you'll remember enough of the questions you've seen so you can pass on a later date. Not only will you qualify for the SWE earlier, but you'll have a better knowledge base for doing your job.

Getting Ready to Study for Your EOCT

Studying for your end-of-course test (EOCT) is a straightforward process. Even before you start to study, though, you've got to do one thing: put out of your mind all the well-meaning advice you've heard from those around you (often including those who are higher than you in rank) about how to study for an EOCT. More likely than not those who are giving you advice (1) last took an EOCT many years ago, before the

current system was in place, or (2) took the EOCT a number of times before passing it or (3) both of these.

Once you put aside all the advice you've received, you need to get yourself into the proper frame of mind. That means you must accept the fact that studying for your EOCT is unlikely to be easy. This isn't because the Coast Guard wants it to be hard, but because the material you're required to learn in the course of your studies for the next higher rating is college-level material.

Face it: every enlisted person – even those in hands-on rates – is already a college student, whether you think so or not. Because almost every "A" and "C" school and almost every other service school you attend, along with most Coast Guard Institute courses you take, has been evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE). The end result of that evaluation is a determination of how many credits you would have earned if you'd taken the same subjects in college.

In essence, then, you're taking college courses whenever you take military courses. This is why you nearly always actually have to study to do well on the end-of-course tests related to these courses.

There's a systematic way of studying for the tests that will improve your chances of passing the first time. Believe it or not, the people who devised the Coast Guard's non-resident training (what used to be called correspondence course) program had an overall vision of how the various parts of the system would all fit together. This system consists of Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs – what used to be called practical factors), the PQG(s) for the next higher rating, and on-the-job training.

According to ETCM David Robinson, Enlisted Performance Qualifications Manager for all enlisted ratings, the PQGs (replacements for the old course materials) "are self-paced learning tools based on Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs). PQGs have been developed to provide a realistic learning tool for apprentice-journeyman-master instruction; structure for on-the-job training experiences to guide the development process of our workforce for advancement opportunities and performance improvement."

Master Chief Robinson continues, "The PQG format employs a more interactive approach to learning than the old correspondence-course system it replaces; it systematically links on-the-job learning to supervisor/mentor involvement through a semi-formal process." This means you will work with your

PDS [Professional Development Supervisor] on demonstrating mastery of your PQG and EPQ materials and tasks. "A monthly tracking sheet (MTS) is supplied in many PQGs to assist the PDS and student with recording of progress."

Only when you've mastered your EPQs and the material in your PQG are you ready to take your end-of-course test. The bottom line: don't waste your time by taking a test you're really not ready for.

How to Study for an EOCT

So, how do you actually study for the test? First, go to your course materials (your PQG) and dig out the pamphlet entitled "Performance Qualification Guide Certification Pamphlet". Although this pamphlet has different material in it for each rating, they're all formatted the same way and contain the same information.

On the very first page (after the table of contents) will be a page entitled, "How to Use the Performance Qualification Guide (PQG)". Read it. This tells you step-by-step how to prepare for the test. In case you can't find it, here are the steps:

Review the PQG with your Professional Development Supervisor (PDS) and set up a realistic time-line for completing all tasks laid out in the PQG.

Read your course from front to back, one lesson at a time.

Practice the lesson objectives.

Complete the practical exercises, job aids, and self-quiz for each lesson.

Take the lesson to your PDS who will oversee you performing the activities described in it and will sign it off.

Review your progress (as shown on your Monthly Tracking Sheet (MTS)) with your PDS.

Using what you've learned in your lessons, perform all Terminal Performance Objective tasks listed on the applicable PQG lesson sheet for your PDS. Your PDS will sign them off as you successfully perform them. At the same time, your PDS will also sign off your EPQs (which is your permanent record of having learned what you need to learn on a particular topic.)

Take your EOCT.

Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee 2007 Mark Yamane Military Scholarship Information

The Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) annually awards the Mark Yamane Military Scholarship to help men and women of Japanese ancestry serving in the military to further their education. The \$1,500 scholarship can be used to purchase a computer, help pay off an existing student loan, pay for books or tuition not covered by the military, or any combination of the above.

This is the fourth year we have offered the scholarship. Our 2004 winner was a senior airman stationed at McChord. Our 2005 winner was a Sergeant stationed at Ft. Lewis and our 2006 winner was a Tech. Sergeant stationed at McChord.

The scholarship is named after Mark Yamane who was a Sansei (third generation Japanese-American) and the youngest son of former NVC commander George Yamane and former women's auxiliary member Charlotte Yamane. Mark was assigned to the 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Infantry and was killed in action on October 25, 1983 during the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

The scholarship is open to individuals of partial Japanese ancestry who are: Regular military stationed at Ft. Lewis, McChord Air Force Base, Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Naval Station Everett, Naval Station Bangor, or Naval Station Bremerton; In the U.S. Coast Guard under

the command of the 13th District; A Washington State resident who is a member of the Guard or Reserves who has served on active duty for a total of two years or more (may be interrupted service) or who are currently on active duty; A first or second year ROTC student at an ROTC program in the State of Washington; A Washington State resident who is a first or second year ROTC student at any university; or A relative of an NVC member and serving on active duty at any military base worldwide.

The deadline for applications for the 2007 scholarship is Friday, February 16th 2007.

The Seattle NVC was established on March 25, 1946 by second generation (Nisei) Japanese-Americans returning from World War II who had served in the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe or the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) attached to American units in the Pacific Theater because, at the time, they were not welcome to join the VFW or the American Legion. Since then Korean, Vietnam and other Veterans have joined the ranks of the NVC.

To apply, the candidate must complete the 2006 NVC Military Scholarship application, complete the essay

question, and include a letter of recommendation from a teacher, educational advisor/counselor and a supervisor (NCO or officer).

Completed applications should be sent to:

Nisei Veterans Committee
P.O. Box 3042
Seattle, WA 98114

For more information about the Seattle NVC check out our website www.seattlenvc.org

For more information or if you have any questions about the scholarship program, please contact: Steve Finley at sfistf2@yahoo.com

Excelsior College Coast Guard Spouse Program

Excelsior College is now offering its programs to spouses of uniformed Coast Guard personnel on the same terms as those offered to their sponsors. This means spouses can now take full advantage of all the discounts and services available to military personnel, so they can finish their education. For more information go to <http://www.excelsior.edu/coastguardspouse>. You can also pick up a brochure and schedule an appointment with the Excelsior advisor in the Learning Center.